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Sunil H. Contractor

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AT&T Legal Department - CC

Attn: Patent Docketing

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, QUYNH H

ART UNIT

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2614

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/884,316	Applicant(s) CONTRACTOR, SUNIL H.	
	Examiner QUYNH H. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE and amendment filed 3/12/09.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 03/12/09 has been entered. Claim 28-31 and 33-35 has been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 49-51 have been added. Claims 28-51 are still pending, with claims 28, 31, and 51 being independent.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 28 recites a programmable telephone number table connected to the subscription list. The programmable telephone number table stored in database 31 while the subscription list is a list of subscribers that subscribed to the server. It is unclear as how the two are connected. Clarification required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 51 recites "A computer program product", for example, software per se. Software does not fall within any of the statutory categories.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 28, 31 and 33-36, 38-48, 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatchell et al. (U.S Patent 6,160,877) in view of Arbel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,276,731) and further in view of Rogers et al. (U.S. Patent 5,946,386).

As to claim 28, Tatchell teaches a selective call forwarding system (col. 4, lines 27-29), comprising:

a subscription list comprising a plurality of subscriber telephone numbers (col. 8, lines 18-23 and lines 25-33); the programmable telephone number comprising for each of the subscriber telephone numbers in the subscription list (col. 8, lines 18-23), a plurality of associated forwarding telephone numbers (col. 9, lines 25-27); a telephone system having access to the subscription list (col. 8, lines 19-21) and the programmable telephone number table (col. 9, lines 25-28; col. 12, lines 6-8), the telephone system determining that a call placed by a caller is to a subscriber having a corresponding subscriber telephone number entry in the subscription list and the programmable telephone number table (col. 8, lines 28-56; col. 9, lines 38-43), the telephone system

selectively forwarding the call to one of a plurality of forwarding telephone numbers associated with the corresponding subscriber telephone number entry in the programmable telephone number table using a TCAP protocol to respond to a triggers (col. 10, lines 1-35); and sending a TCAP message to initiate searching to locate the corresponding subscriber telephone number entry in the subscription list and the programmable telephone number table (col. 8, lines 57-67; col. 12, lines 58-66).

Tatchell does not teach a programmable telephone number table comprises a plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers to a subscriber telephone number; the telephone system provides an indication to the caller that the call is being forwarded to the forwarding telephone number.

Arbel teaches a programmable telephone number table comprises a plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers to a subscriber telephone number (col. 9, line 58 through col. 10, line 10 - *where Arbel discussed receiving a call made from one of a plurality of Dr. Warner's preferred patients, whose names or telephone numbers are listed in the database or table, to his telephone number, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, lines 14-19 and lines 50-56. New patients or non-preferred caller whose names or telephone numbers are not listed in the table proceed in a normal fashion such as by connecting to voice mail, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, line 61 through col. 13, line 3; col. 10, lines 1-10 - Number*), and to selectively forward the call to a one of a plurality of forwarding telephone numbers.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Arbel into the teachings of Tatchell

for the purpose of having a more efficient system and making the call forwarding more efficient and faster if knowing the preferred caller telephone numbers among a list of forwarding numbers.

Arbel and Tatchell do not teach providing an indication to a caller placing the call that the call is being forwarded to the forwarding telephone numbers.

Rogers et al. teach providing an indication to a caller placing the call that the call is being forwarded to the forwarding telephone numbers (col. 31, lines 60-63 - *where Rogers discussed playing the initiating party (caller) a message. For example, "I am tied up at the moment an am transferring your to Sam"*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of a caller placing the call that the call is being forwarded to the forwarding telephone numbers, as taught by Rogers, in Arbel's and Tatchell's systems in order to make it clear to the initiating party that his or her incoming call will be handled by a covering party whereby reducing the chance the initiating party hang up while the call is forwarded, thus making the system more efficient by allowing the caller to know the actual status of other system users (Rogers, col. 4, lines 40-45).

Claims 31 and 51 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 28. Furthermore, Arbel et al. teach a method comprising:

receiving a first call made to a subscriber telephone number from a first caller telephone number (*a first call made to Dr. Warner from patient Donna Sago*);

a plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers associated with subscribers telephone numbers (col. 9, line 58 through col. 10, line 10 - *where Arbel discussed the communication system configured to selectively forward a call from the patients to Dr. Warner to different ones of the forwarding telephone numbers are associated with the respective caller telephone numbers. For example, calls from patient Donna Sago telephone number 454-9557 to be forwarded to telephone number 453-7668 of Dr. Hubbard; while calls from patient Brooke English telephone number 467-2839 to be forwarded to telephone number 222-3333 of Dr. Martin*);

determining whether the first caller telephone number is one of a plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers associated with the subscriber telephone number (col. 9, line 58 through col. 10, line 10 - *where Arbel discussed receiving a call made from one of a plurality of Dr. Warner's preferred patients, whose names or telephone numbers are listed in the database or table, to his telephone number, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, lines 14-19 and lines 50-56. New patients or non-preferred caller whose names or telephone numbers are not listed in the table proceed in a normal fashion such as by connecting to voice mail, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, line 61 through col. 13, line 3. It would have been obvious that the message delivery system needs to determine Donna Sago's telephone number associated with Dr. Warner's telephone number or Donna Sago called Dr. Warner's telephone number*);

if the caller telephone number is not a preferred caller telephone number, processing the call normally without forwarding the call to the forwarding number (col. 12, line 61 through col. 13, line 3 - *where Arbel discussed new patients or non-preferred*

caller whose names or telephone numbers are not listed in the table proceed in a normal fashion such as by connecting to voice mail);

forwarding the first call to a first forwarding telephone number associated with the first caller telephone number (*forwarding Donna Sago to Dr. Hubbard's telephone number associated with Donna Sago telephone number per the predetermined selection from table in col. 10, lines 1-10*);

receiving at least a second call made to the subscriber telephone number from at least a second caller telephone number (*a second call made to Dr. Warner from patient Brooke English*);

determining whether the second caller telephone number is one of a plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers associated with the subscriber telephone number (*col. 9, line 58 through col. 10, line 10 - where Arbel discussed receiving a call made from one of a plurality of Dr. Warner's preferred patients, whose names or telephone numbers are listed in the database or table, to his telephone number, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, lines 14-19 and lines 50-56. New patients or non-preferred caller whose names or telephone numbers are not listed in the table proceed in a normal fashion such as by connecting to voice mail, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, line 61 through col. 13, line 3. It would have been obvious that the message delivery system needs to determine Brooke English's telephone number associated with Dr. Warner's telephone number or Brooke English called Dr. Warner's telephone number*); and

forwarding the second call to a second forwarding telephone number associated with the second caller telephone number (*forwarding Brooke English to Dr. Martin's*

telephone number associated with Brooke English telephone number per the predetermined selection from table in col. 10, lines 1-10); and wherein if the first caller telephone number is not a preferred caller telephone number, the first call is processed normally without forwarding the first call to the first forwarding telephone number (col. 12, line 61 through col. 13, line 3 - where Arbel discussed new patients or non-preferred caller whose names or telephone numbers are not listed in the table proceed in a normal fashion such as by connecting to voice mail); and wherein if the second caller telephone number is not a preferred caller telephone number, the second call is processed normally without forwarding the second call to the second forwarding telephone number (col. 12, line 61 through col. 13, line 3 - where Arbel discussed new patients or non-preferred caller whose names or telephone numbers are not listed in the table proceed in a normal fashion such as by connecting to voice mail).

As to claim 33, Arbel teaches the steps of: associate a plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers with the subscriber telephone number, and associate with each of the preferred caller telephone numbers at least one respective forwarding telephone number (col. 10, lines 1-10 - *where Arbel discussed receiving a call made from one of a plurality of Dr. Warner's preferred patients, whose names or telephone numbers are listed in the database or table, to his telephone number, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, lines 14-19 and lines 50-56. New patients or non-preferred caller whose names or telephone numbers are not listed in the table proceed in a normal fashion such as by connecting to voice mail, as discussed by Arbel in col. 12, line 61 through col. 13, line 3).*

As to claims 34 and 35, the limitation determining whether the first and second callers telephone numbers is one of plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers associated with the subscriber telephone number is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 31, accessing a programmable telephone number table containing at least the subscriber telephone number and the plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers, and (col. 10, lines 1-10 - *where Arbel displayed a table that associating with different ones of the caller telephone numbers different respective forwarding telephone numbers*) and determining if the caller telephone number is a preferred caller telephone listed in the table / database (col. 12, lines 14-19 and lines 50-65).

As to claim 36, Rogers et al. teach the indication provided to the caller is an audible voice notification (col. 31, lines 60-63).

As to claim 38, there are different ways of providing notification to the caller such as audible voice notification, audible tone, a lamp, etc. The latter is the preferred on this instant application.

Claims 39 and 42, 40 and 43, 41 and 44 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 36, 37, and 38, respectively.

As to claim 45, Arbel et al. teach different ones of the forwarding telephone numbers are associated with respective preferred caller telephone numbers and are also associated with the subscriber telephone number (col. 9, line 58 through col. 10, line 9).

As to claim 46, Arbel et al. teach associating the plurality of forwarding telephone numbers of the programmable telephone number table with respective preferred caller telephone numbers (col. 9, line 58 through col. 10, line 9).

As to claims 47 and 48, Arbel et al. teach forwarding the first call includes forwarding the first/second call to a first/second forwarding telephone associated with the first/second caller telephone number (col. 9, line 58 through col. 10, line 9).

6. Claims 29-30, 37, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatchell, Arbel, and Rogers further in view of Pershan (US Patent 6,718,026).

As to claims 29 and 50, Tatchell, Arbel, and Rogers do not explicitly teach the programmable telephone number table is edited via a website.

Pershan teaches the programmable telephone number table is edited via a website (col. 7, lines 19-29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Pershan into the teachings of Tatchell, Arbel, and Rogers for the purpose of having a more efficient system and allowing users conveniently modify/change their profile when needed.

As to claim 30, Pershan teaches accessing to the programmable telephone number table is restricted (col. 7, lines 30-42 and line 66 through col. 8, line 11 - *where Pershan discussed subscribers gain access to and/or modify call forwarding information*

in their own service records via the website is limited to upon satisfying security checks such as a firewall, customer identification, password, and PIN).

As to claim 37, Pershan et al. the indication provided to the caller is an audible tone (col. 24, lines 40-44).

7. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbel, Tatchell, Arbel, and Rogers further in view of O'Neil et al. (U.S. Patent 5,963,864).

As to claim 32, Tatchell, Arbel, and Rogers do not teach determining whether the first forwarding telephone number is associated with a wireless telephone, and wherein forwarding the first call to the first forwarding telephone number is performed in response to determining that the wireless telephone is in an on-state.

O'Neil et al. teach forwarding the first call to the first forwarding telephone number is performed in response to determining that the wireless telephone is in an on-state (col. 6, lines 29-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of checking the availability of the wireless telephone before forwarding the call, as taught by O'Neil, into the teachings of Tatchell's, Arbel's, and Rogers' systems prior to forwarding the incoming call thus caller does not have to talk to an unexpected destination, for example, voice mail, etc. or any other person other than the anticipated one.

8. Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatchell, Arbel, Rogers, and further in view of Hartmaier (US 2002/0080751).

Claim 49 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 29. However, Tatchell, Arbel, and Rogers do not teach the corresponding subscriber telephone number entry in the programmable telephone number table is a wire line telephone number and the forwarding telephone number is a wireless telephone number, and the forwarding to the forwarding telephone number is performed in response to determining that the wireless telephone is in an on-state.

Hartmaier teaches forwarding a wireline telephone number to the telephone number is a wireless telephone number, and the forwarding to the forwarding telephone number is performed in response to determining that the wireless telephone is in an on-state ([0002], [0024]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Hartmaier into the teachings of Tatchell, Arbel, and Rogers for the purpose of forwarding the call to the called party where the called party is available to take the call.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 28-51 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's arguments are addressed in the above claims rejections.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QUYNH H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-7489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on 571-272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Quynh H Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614